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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/454,316 12/03/99 CHEN

S 49456

IM22/0327

EXAMINER

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BOSTON MA 02109

JOHNSON, E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1754

DATE MAILED: 03/27/01

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/454,316	CHEN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Edward M. Johnson	1754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 1999 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3 20) Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 5, line 22, "preferable" appears to be incorrect. Examiner suggests replacing with --preferably--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

The claims in this application do not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b). Appropriate correction is required in response to this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 4-5, "the process for producing allyl acetate" lacks antecedent basis and makes unclear whether applicant regards as his invention a process or composition.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartsch 4,158,737.

Regarding claim 1, Bartsch '737 discloses a catalyst comprising palladium metal as the main catalyst (see column 1, lines 10-15), tin or a mixture of tin and additional metal as the promoter (see column 5, lines 47-52), in combination with an alkali or alkaline earth metal compound (see abstract and column 3, lines 64-68), on the outer surface of a porous carrier (see column 3, line 25), being used in the process for producing allyl acetate (see abstract).

Regarding claim 2, Bartsch '737 discloses gold (see abstract), copper (see abstract), cadmium, bismuth or mixtures thereof (see column 5, lines 47-55).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Bartsch '737 discloses palladium (see column 5, line 29) in the range of 0.5 to 2.0% weight (see column 5, line 41).

Regarding claims 5, 6, 7, and 8, Bartsch '737 discloses tin and mixtures of tin with other metals in the range of 0.05 to 0.64 weight (see column 5, lines 47-55).

Regarding claims 9 and 10, Bartsch '737 discloses alkali or alkaline earth metal compound in the range of 0.5 to 10 weight (see column 5, line 45).

Regarding claim 11, Bartsch '737 discloses gold (see abstract).

Regarding claim 12, Bartsch '737 discloses copper (see abstract).

Regarding claim 13, Bartsch '737 discloses cadmium and bismuth (see column 5, line 49).

Regarding claim 14, Bartsch '737 discloses the alkali and alkaline earth metal carboxylates and the formates and acetates of sodium, potassium, and lithium (see column 5, lines 33-39).

Regarding claim 15, Bartsch '737 discloses potassium hydroxide, acetate, formate, and carboxylates (see column 5, lines 12-13 and 33-39).

Regarding claim 16, Bartsch '737 discloses alumina (see abstract).

Regarding claim 17, Bartsch '737 discloses the reaction of propylene, acetic acid, oxygen, and water (see column 6, lines 18-34) in the vapor phase (see abstract).

Regarding claims 18 and 19, Bartsch '737 discloses the oxygen containing gases at 2-20% (see column 6, lines 10-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartsch 4,158,737 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sennewald et al. 3,655,747.

Regarding claim 20, Sennewald '747 discloses impregnating the carrier with palladium and promoter metals in oxidative state (see column 4, lines 15-20), then reducing the metals from an oxidative state into metallic state (see column 4, lines 23-25), impregnating the metallic state metals-supporting carrier with a solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal compounds (see column 4, line 30, and column 6, lines 12-15), and then drying (see column 4, lines 30-31).

Regarding claim 21, Sennewald '747 discloses hydrazine hydrate solution as reducing agent (see column 4, lines 23-24).

It is considered that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the impregnation and reduction method of Sennewald '747 with the catalyst of Bartsch '737 because Bartsch specifies the use of Sennewald's method to impregnate a noble metal catalyst to a carrier (see Bartsch '737, column 5, line 28).

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartsch '737 and Sennewald '747 as applied to claims 1 and 20 above, and further in view of Kronig et al. 3,822,308.

Regarding claim 22, Kronig '308 discloses ethylene gas as reducing agent (see column 4, lines 29-31).

It is considered that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the ethylene in Kronig '308 with the catalyst and method in Bartsch and Sennewald because Bartsch specifies the use of both Sennewald's and Kronig's method for impregnating noble metal catalysts to carriers (see Bartsch '737, column 5, lines 28-29).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward M.

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Johnson whose telephone number is 703-305-0216. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3599 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

EMJ
March 26, 2001

Steven P. Griffin
STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700